

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13621

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR CH

SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION FOR PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO CHINA

REF: STAE 265646 (NOTAL)

1. RECENT JOINT APPEARANCE OF NUMBER ONE/TWO VICE PREMIERS, TENG HSIAO-PING AND ACHANG CHUN-CHIAO, FOR VISIT OF BURMA'S NE WIN (HK 13487) MAY INDICATE A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY FOR CHANG CHUN-CHIAO IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT THAN CHANG HAD DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S 1972 VISIT. THE JOINT APPEARANCE OF TENG AND CHANG ALSO APPEARS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF UNANIMITY ON POLICY LINES IN PRC PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND A REAFFIRMATION OF "UNITY" WHICH THE REGIME HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING AS A GUIDELINE AT LEAST SINCE THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN JANUARY.

2. THE TANDEM APPEARANCE OF TENG AND CHANG FOR NE WIN'S MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO IS THE FIRST TIME A DUAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN USED SINCE CHOU EN-LAI ENTERED THE HOSPITAL LAST MAY, AND WANG HUNG-WEN AND CHOU CEASED APPEARING JOINTLY WITH THE CHAIRMAN FOR THESE HEAD-OF-STATE VISITS.
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THIS APPEARANCE SEEMS A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE

THAT TENG AND CHANGE ARE INDEED THE TEAM RUNNING CHINA MUCH AS THE OLD CHOU/WANG APPEARANCE WITH MAO CHARACTERIZED THE BALANCING OF FORCES IN THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION/TENTH PARTY CONGRESS ARRANGMENT. CHOU'S CONTINUED NON-APPEARANCE IN THE CAPITAL AMIDST REPORTS OF INCREASING SEVERITY OF ILLNESS AND WANG'S ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP IN SHANGHAI ASO SHOULD BE READ INTO THIS EQUATION OF LEADERSHIP RELATIONS.

3. BECAUSE OF THE WIDE RANGE OF DUTIES FOR WHICH BOTH TENG AND CHANG HOLD CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES, WE HESITATE TO PREDICT THAT THIS TENG/CHANG CO-HOSTING WILL CONTINUE AS A NEW, OR EVEN REGULAR, PATTERN FOR HEAD-OF-STATE VISITS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE IT REPEAT FREQUENTLY, PARTICULARLY IF THE CHINESE HAVE A SPECIFIC POLICY ISSUE TO DISCUSS WITH THE VISITING LEADER, OR IF THE CHINESE ARE SEEKING TO CONVEY A GENERAL MESSAGE IN EITHER INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AT THAT TIME. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT TENG CLEARLY REMAINS VERY MUCH NUMBER ONE AND THAT IT WAS TENG WHO HEADED THE TURNOUTS AND DELIVERED THE BANQUET ADDRESS.

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